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Cynthia 7/27/01

Patent

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Lap-Wai CHOW, et al.) RE: Information
Serial No.: 09/768,911) Disclosure Statement
Filed: January 24, 2001) Group: 2811
For: "INTEGRATED CIRCUITS PROTECTED) Examiner: not yet assigned
AGAINST REVERSE ENGINEERING AND)
METHOD FOR FABRICATING THE SAME) Our Ref: B-3962 618027-2
USING VIAS WITHOUT METAL)
TERMINATIONS") Date: July 20, 2001

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the Applicants' duty to disclose information which may be material to the examination of this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that the Examiner consider on the merits the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified) before issuing the first Office Action on the merits. We are enclosing herewith a copy of each document listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified).

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists.

The Applicants believe that this IDS is being submitted before the issuance of a first Office Action on the merits and before the issuance of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance. Therefore, no official fees should be due; and this IDS should be considered on the merits. If this IDS is being submitted after the issuance of the first Office Action on the merits and before the issuance of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, then the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-0415 \$180.00 (or any other required amount), which is the fee set forth in 37

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Information Disclosure Statement

USSN 09/768,911

July 20, 2001

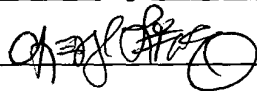
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C.F.R. § 1.97(c); and this IDS should be fully considered on the merits, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d). If this IDS is being submitted after the issuance of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, then the Commissioner is not authorized to charge \$180.00 to Deposit Account No. 12-0415.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner. (Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 25.)

The person making this statement is the practitioner who signs below on the basis of information supplied by an individual associated with the filing and prosecution of this application (37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c)) and on the basis of information in the practitioner's file.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to the "Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231", on July 20, 2001 by Cheryl Liang.



Respectfully submitted,



Victor Repkin
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 45,039

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Enclosures: Form PTO-1449 (modified) (1 page)
Copy of documents listed in Form PTO-1449 (modified)